ITU AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE NETWORK

REPORT OF THE
3RD VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

18 JUNE 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Introduction and Opening

The virtual Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Africa Centres of Excellence (CoE) was held on 18 June 2020. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the COVID-19 situation and its impact on the implementation of the trainings planned by the Centres of Excellence for 2020. The meeting was organized by ITU and chaired by Mr. Adamou Moussa Saley, the Director General of ESMT (Ecole Supérieure Multinationale des Télécommunications) in the absence of the Chair of the Steering Committee who could not attend the meeting due personal reasons.

The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked ITU for organizing the virtual Steering Committee meeting. He highlighted the importance of the meeting in deliberating collectively scenarios and concrete actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of the trainings planned by the Centres of Excellence for 2020.

Participants were also greeted by Mr. Rugege Andrew, Director of the ITU Regional Office for Africa who thanked all the CoEs and commended their work and efforts to continue working in these difficult times. He also expressed his commitment and readiness to support CoEs in transitioning to online courses. He stated that connectivity cannot be relevant without human and institutional capacity building just to underline the critical role of the network of centres of excellence in Africa Region.

Participants were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by the participants without changes and included the following items:

1. Opening and introduction
2. Agenda of the meeting
3. Review of plans of the ITU Centres of Excellence, taking into account impact of the COVID-19
   - CoE interventions
4. Transition from face-to-face to online courses – ITU Academy Platform as a possible technical solution
   - Conversion of traditional training materials into Interactive Online Training Resources
     - Introduction – ITU
     - Discussion
5. Revision of the 2020 training catalogue (dates, format, pricing, other) – Presentations by CoEs
6. Sharing of CoE training materials with ITU and Collaboration with other ITU Clusters
7. Other business
   - Upcoming feasibility study to establish an ITU training institute
8. Closing

3. Review of plans of the ITU Centres of Excellence, and the impact of the COVID-19

AFRALTI indicated that courses that were planned in Feb, March up to May did not happen due to COVID-19. Since march, in-person trainings are not allowed and they have fully migrated to delivering courses online.

DBI offices have been shut down, teleworking has been implemented until end of June. Courses that were planned face-to-face could not hold. Efforts were made to reorganize the courses with no success yet. For the meantime, they are trying to reorganize and they have a tentative plan for the 2nd part of the year.

SUP'PTIC had planned 8 courses but only 1 was conducted in March, the rest were postponed. The revised plan includes face-to-face and online courses.

ESATIC had 7 courses planned for the year, there has been only 1 implemented in February, the rest were cancelled. A new calendar was prepared and submitted to ITU.

ESMT had courses planned starting from march, the first course was supposed to take place in Niamey, Niger but it was cancelled. All courses that were planned for 2020 were rearranged and a new plan has few courses as some were removed.

NCB had 2 trainings planned and 1 was meant to be in March but it was cancelled. They are exploring the possibility to use the ITU Academy platform to organize it online for this year.

Mrs. Susan Teltscher, the Head of ITU Head of Capacity and Digital Skills Development also admitted that due to the COVID-19 situation, face-to-face trainings were not possible and even in ITU all meetings are held online since march. She indicated that, in particular for Africa region the majority of the courses are face-to-face and the impact was more severe than other regions that had more online courses scheduled for the year. She indicated that this is an opportunity to introduce online learning in the CoE network in Africa.

4. Transitioning from face-to-face to online training courses

Elena made an introduction about conducting courses online. Regarding conversion of materials to online, she emphasized on the need for the materials to be prepared well in advance like one month before the actual start of the online course. The training outline has to be prepared at least 2months before so that it can be posted to ITU Academy platform. Uploading and testing of materials is also very important and it is recommended to be done ahead of time. She stressed that all CoE online courses are held on the ITU Academy platform as registrations and payments are done through the platform.

Halima talked about quality assurance of online courses, particularly emphasized on the difference between face-to-face and online courses materials and the need to engage participants to ensure the quality of the instructor-led online courses.

The chair highlighted three challenges in the process of transitioning to online trainings: (1) lack of expertise for converting face-to-face materials to online materials, (2) fees for online courses, (3) lack of skills to use the ITU Academy Platform

5. Revision of the 2020 training catalogue (dates, format, pricing, other)

CoEs presented their plans for the remaining part of the year taking into account different scenarios related to COVID-19. They reflected on price adjustments given that CoEs have different business models, some are considered as private entities and others are linked to Government institutions.

AFRALTI
- its business model is self-sustaining and they cannot afford not to charge as they dependent on the training revenues.
- Courses are paid either by the sponsor or the participant
- online delivery is combination of Self-Paced Training and live virtual Instructor-Led Training using Skype and Zoom Video Conference.

- The duration increased from 5 days for face-to-face to 4 weeks for online with at least 4 hours of live lecture every week.

Course	Date	Duration	Mode of Delivery	Course Fee in USD
Digital Broadcasting Content Regulation in a Converged Environment	3rd-28th August 2020	4 Weeks (40 Hours) live lecture 4 hours every week	Online	960
Radio Frequency Spectrum Economy and Market Valuation	7th September-2nd October 2020	4 Weeks (40 Hours) live lecture 4 hours every week	Online	960
Broadcast Spectrum Management	5th-30th October 2020	4 Weeks (40 Hours) live lecture 4 hours every week	Online	960
Digital Broadcasting Regulation in a Converged Environment	2nd-13th November 2020	4 Weeks (40 Hours) live lecture 4 hours every week	Online	960
Digital Broadcasting Masterclass	30th November-24th December 2020	4 Weeks (40 Hours) live lecture 4 hours every week	Online	960

- Susan insisted that courses under ITU CoE network have to be delivered through the ITU Academy Platform and CoEs agreed to comply to it.

NCB
- has 2 courses (Cybersecurity Risk Management and Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy) can be delivered by their own experts and for free if it is decided by the steering committee.
- want to push the 2 cyber security courses online using the ITU Academy platform.
- want to make the 2 courses more accessible from the region since there is high demand from Mauritius and in Africa in general
- need an agreement with the steering committee to deliver the 2 courses online and for free or for a minimum fee.
- plan to conduct the 2 courses this year since last they could not take place due to various reasons, and want to do more next year.

From ITU's perspective, there is no objection of courses being offered for free especially in view of the current sanitary situation.

DBI
- highlighted the importance of capacity building and a challenge of some participants that cannot afford course fees despite market demand availability.
- suggested to explore possibilities of tapping into the USPF to provide universal access to digital literacy to unserved and underserved global citizens which will include sponsorship of some of the COEs courses.
- presented a draft plan that is yet to be approved due to extended lockdown
- hopeful to fully return to work before the end of June and start working on conversion of face-to-face to online courses.
- first 2 courses highlighted in red because conversion of materials takes time
- other courses should be able to be converted to online.

- After draft plan is approved, it will be shared with ITU.
- DBI is currently experimenting their own online platform.

ESATIC

- will consider lowering their course fee between 25% and 30% considering that there will be less expenses with online courses.
- will engage with ITU for a possibility of revising the cost-sharing model to increase participation rate.
- discussing and proposing their trainers to convert face-to-face courses to online.
- counting on ITU's support in transitioning to online courses.

Thèmes	Mode	Durée	Dates initiales	Nouvelles dates
Management de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information	Présentiel	5 jours	24-28 février 2020	Action réalisée
Conception des réseaux d'accès Optiques		5 jours	23-27 mars 2020	13 - 17 juillet 2020
Comprendre l'Internet des Objets (IoT) : Principes, Normes, Ecosystème et opportunités économiques		5 jours	20-24 avril 2020	27 - 31 juillet 2020
Sécurité des applications d'Internet et de Mobile Banking		5 jours	25-29 mai 2020	31 Août – 04 septembre 2020
Evolution vers la 5G: Principes techniques et nouvelles opportunités économiques		5 jours	22-26 juin 2020	07 - 11 septembre 2020
Les Systèmes embarqués pour IoT		5 jours	20-24 juillet 2020	
La protection des données à caractère personnel	En ligne	4 semaines	01-28 septembre 2020	

ESMT
- reiterated the issues of negative perception of online trainings and low participation rate.
- considering to lower training fees to increase the number of participants.
- receiving many participants with no credit card making online payments difficult.
- has some experience in running online courses and has 1 master's program on the ITU Academy platform.
- has experience in blended learning, a mix of online self-paced learning and live online sessions.
- highlighted following challenges when transitioning to online courses:
  - technical challenges to create interactive online materials (videos, recordings, etc.)
  - lack of capacity to conduct online course through online platform.
  - negative reputation of online courses.
- need to ensure credibility of online trainings by offering proctored evaluations,
- ITU Academy do not have proctored feature yet but it has other available features to regulate course evaluations such as timing of exams and submissions

Séminaire	Durée	Dates	Mode de délivrance	Frais d'inscription
Informatique de l'audiovisuel : Production et Transport	4 semaines	27 Juillet au 22 Août 2020	En ligne	150 USD
Régulation des services financiers digitaux et des FinTechs		5 au 31 Octobre 2020	En ligne	150 USD
Enjeux et gestion avancée du spectre		5 au 31 Octobre 2020	En ligne	150 USD
Applications et modèles économiques de la Blockchain		23 Novembre au 19 Décembre 2020	En ligne	150 USD

SUP'PTIC

- reiterated the issue of online courses being perceived as of inferior quality compared to face-to-face courses, but with COVID-19 that trend is slowly changing.
- kept 2 face-to-face courses, it was requested by interested participants
- other courses will be delivered online starting from August.
- reduced course fees by more than 50% for online courses and fees may be revised after the first online course.
- reduced 50% for face-to-face courses

TITRE DU COURS	DUREE	DATE	COUT	OBSERVATIONS
Qualité d'un système large bande sans fil	1 mois	**Août**	70 USD	En ligne
Enjeux techniques et juridiques de la large bande fixe et mobile	1 mois	**Septembre**	70 USD	En ligne
1. DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE ENTREPRENARIAT ET INNOVATION				
Stratégie numérique et transformation digitale	1 mois	**Octobre**	70 USD	En ligne
Services innovants : Réglementation et Régulation à l'épreuve du numérique	1 mois	**Novembre**	70 USD	En ligne
2. DOMAINE PRIORITAIRE ECONOMIE NUMERIQUE				
Transactions électroniques et monétique	03 jours	**18 – 20 Novembre**	200 USD	présentiel
Gouvernance et sécurité de l'internet	04 jours	**24-27 Novembre**	200 USD	présentiel

ITU

- recognized that all the CoEs are in a different situation.
- CoEs need to start delivering online trainings and see what work and what doesn't work well in terms of pricing.
- CoEs from other regions are getting few participants from Africa for their online trainings that are not for free, which shows that there is a demand and willingness to participate in online trainings.
- had discussions with CoEs in other regions to have courses for free in view of the current situation, and it was accepted during steering committee meetings.

- warned that free courses attract high number of participants but tend to have lower completion rate.
- ITU is open to CoEs proposals without imposing one or the other as this is a transition period for online courses.

6. Sharing of CoE training materials with ITU

All Centres of Excellence took note on the need for giving an access to the training materials to the relevant ITU thematic priority focal points. It will offer an opportunity for improving the quality of the training materials and ensuring coherence between the work of the ITU and the CoEs' capacity development activities. Access to the training materials will give ITU thematic priority focal points the opportunity to provide comments or/and additional guidance on relevant ITU materials, if necessary.

CoEs confirmed that they are willing to be in contact with the ITU thematic priority Focal Points relevant to CoEs' fields of specialization for materials and expertise sharing and improvements

7. Other business

Feasibility study on establishing an ITU training institute

It is a study that is coming and initiated at ITU Council in June 2019. It will undertake an in-depth analysis and review of current training and capacity building activities including an assessment of CoEs program and report to ITU Council-20 on the results of the study and on the possible creation of *"a capacity-building institute in ITU"*. The study is starting next week by an independent consultancy for a period of four to five months and will recommend required ITU capacity development improvements. CoEs may be contacted and needed to be aware of this very important ITU activity. CoEs were also informed that it is only a feasibility study not an implementation plan and the intention is not to abolish any program.

8. Closing

Chair thanked ITU, all Centres of Excellence and the Members of the Steering Committee for their productive discussions. Susan expressed sincere thanks to the Chair of the meeting for efficient conducting of the meeting on a short notice. She stated that it is not known yet if there is going to be a face-to-face or virtual Steering Committee meeting at the end of the year, it will depend on how the situation evolves. ITU Secretariat was thanked for the excellent preparation of the meeting.

Annex 1. Planned training activities for the period April to December 2020.

Training course topic	Coe	Date before COVID-19	New date COVID-19	Training type	NEW PRICE
Digital Broadcasting Content Regulation in a Converged Environment	AFRALTI	3-14FEB20	3-28AUG20	Online	960
Radio Frequency Spectrum Economy and Market Valuation Based on Digital Dividend	AFRALTI	2-13MAR20	7SEPT-2OCT20	Online	960
Digital Broadcasting Masterclass	AFRALTI	4-8MAY20	30NOV-24DEC20	Online	960
Spectrum Management Masterclass	AFRALTI	06-17JUL20	5-30OCT20	Online	960
Digital Broadcasting Regulation in a Converged Environment	AFRALTI	02-13NOV20	2-27NOV20	Online	960
IC3 Digital Literacy	DBI	11-15MAY20	TBC	TBC	TBC
ICT Applications, Products & Services using Microsoft Office	DBI	22-26JUN20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Social Media Management and Digital Marketing	DBI	10-14AUG20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Developing Web-based Applications	DBI	21-25SEP20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Information and Cybersecurity Principles and Practices	DBI	05-30OCT20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Child Online Protection: Consumer Awareness on Cybercrimes	DBI	20-21OCT20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Digital Evidence and Cyber Forensics for Judicial Officers, Investigators, Legal Practitioners & Prosecutors	DBI	02-06NOV20	TBC	TBC	TBC

Emerging Cybercrime Trends: Cybercrime Investigations and Mobile Forensics for Security Intelligence, Investigators and Law Enforcement Officers	DBI	09-13NOV20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Management de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information	ESATIC	24-28FEB20	Implemented	F-T-F	860 USD
Conception des réseaux d'accès Optiques	ESATIC	23-27MAR20	13 – 17JUL20	F-T-F	860 USD
Comprendre l'Internet des Objets (IoT) : Principes, Normes, Ecosystème et opportunités économiques	ESATIC	20-24APR20	27 – 31JUL20	F-T-F	860 USD
Sécurité des applications d'Internet et de Mobile Banking	ESATIC	25-29MAY20	31AUG – 04SEP20	F-T-F	860 USD
Evolution vers la 5G: Principes techniques et nouvelles opportunités économiques	ESATIC	22-26JUN20	07 – 11SEP20	F-T-F	860 USD
Les Systèmes embarqués pour IoT	ESATIC	20-24JUL20	20-24JUL20	F-T-F	860 USD
La protection des données à caractère personnel	ESATIC	01-28SEPT20	01-28SEPT20	Online	150 USD
Informatique de l'audiovisuel : Production et Transport	ESMT	13-17APR20	27JUL-22AUG20	Online	150 USD
Régulation des services financiers digitaux et des FinTechs	ESMT	15-19JUN20	5-31OCT20	Online	150 USD
Enjeux et gestion avancée du spectre	ESMT	26-30OCT20	30NOV-26DEC20	Online	150 USD
Applications et modèles économiques de la Blockchain	ESMT	30NOV-18DEC20	23NOV-19DEC20	Online	150 USD
Cybersecurity Risk Management	NCB	30-31MAR20	TBC	TBC	TBC
Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy	NCB	Quarter 3 2020	TBC	TBC	TBC
Qualité d'un système large bande sans fil	SUP'PTIC	22-26JUN20	1-31AUGUST20	Online	70

Enjeux techniques et juridiques de la large bande fixe et mobile	**SUP'PTIC**	22-25APR20	1-30SEPT20	Online	70
Stratégie numérique et transformation digitale	**SUP'PTIC**	27-29MAY20	1-31OCTOBER20	Online	70
Services innovants : Réglementation et Régulation à l'épreuve du numérique (replacing action 24911/new title)	**SUP'PTIC**		1-30NOV20	Online	70
Transactions électroniques et monétique(replacing action 24899/new title)	**SUP'PTIC**		18 – 20NOV20	F-T-F	200
Gouvernance et sécurité de l'internet	**SUP'PTIC**	27-30OCT20	24-27NOV20	F-T-F	200

List of participants

The Member States hosting CoEs:

- Mrs. Patricia Kerrets-Kemei, Ag. Assistant Director/Administration | Human Capital and Administration, Communications Authority of Kenya

- Ms. Nkoiboni Susan, Human Capital and Administration, Communications Authority of Kenya

Centres of Excellence:

- Mr. Adamou Moussa Saley, Senegal - Chair of the Meeting

- Dr. André Onana, Senegal

- Dr. Adama Konate, Côte d'Ivoire

- Mr Rodolphe Kossonou, Côte d'Ivoire

- Jonathan P. Mwakijele, Kenya

- Ms. Anita Natwati, Kenya

- Mr. Yakubu Maitalata, Nigeria

- Ms Anne Chantal Mvogo, Cameroun

- Dr Kaleem Usmani, Mauritius

ITU Staff members:

- Andrew Rugege (Director of ITU Regional Office for Africa)

- Susan TELTSCHER (Head of Capacity and Digital Skills Development Division)

- Emmanuel NIYIKORA (Programme Officer, ITU Area Office Dakar, Africa Region)

- Elena STANKOVSKA-CASTILLA, (Capacity and Digital Skills Development Officer)

- Mike NXELE (Senior Capacity and Digital Skills Development Officer)

- Halima LETAMO (Training and Development Officer)

- Sylvie RAPOSO (Administrative Assistant)